

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER HEIDORN'S CALLS IN DEPARTMENT

REF: BERLIN 5924

1.GDR DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER AND SPECIALIZED EDUCATION
GUENTER HEIDORN, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM ELM AND INTERPRETER,
CALLED ON CU ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUFFEY MAY 3. DISCUSSION
WAS FRIENDLY AND GENERAL IN NATURE. HEIDORN REPORTED ON
INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS WITH IREX AND AT PRINCETON, HARVARD,
MIT, COLUMBIA, AND CCNY. HE CALLED FOR INTENSIFYING ACADE-
MIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND TOUCHED
ON DESIRABILITY OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL,
ARGUING THAT IT WOULD FACILITATE SOLVING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
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ON GDR SIDE. DUFFEY RESPONDED BY WELCOMING PROGRESS MADE
IN OUR CULTURAL RELATIONS TO DATE, PARTICULARLY IMPENDING
SIGNING OF NEW EXPANDED IREX AGREEMENT, AND HOPING FOR FUR-
THER PROGRESS IN FUTURE, BUT INDICATED THAT CULTURAL AGREE-
MENT COULD BETTER BE DISCUSSED AFTER CONSULAR CONVENTION AND
OTHER MATTERS HAD FALLEN INTO PLACE. DUFFEY NOTED WITH
SATISFACTION RESOLUTION OF HOLMES'S VISA PROBLEM, AND CON-

CLUDED BY SAYING THAT PROF. HEIDORN'S VISIT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHERING PROGRESS IN OUR CULTURAL RELATIONS.

2.ON MAY 4, HEIDORN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR SIEBER CALLED ON EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE. THE DISCUSSION WAS GENERAL WITH BOTH VINE AND HEIDORN AGREEING THAT GREATER CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS COULD HELP IMPROVE THE OVERALL CLIMATE OF RELATIONS. VINE EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION OVER THE GENERAL STATE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS, BUT NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES STILL HAVE PROBLEMS IN UNDERSTANDING HOW THE RESPECTIVE BUREAUCRACIES OPERATE AND THAT AS A RESULT THERE HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN COMMUNICATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, VINE MENTIONED THE FILM RETROSPECTIVE, THE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AND THE HOLMES CASE. HEIDORN RESPONDED THAT THE GDR HOPED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE US IN DEVELOPING GOOD CULTURAL RELATIONS AND THAT PROBLEMS OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE MORE EASILY SOLVED ONCE WE ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH EACH OTHER. HEIDORN COMMENTED THAT FOR ITS PART, THE GDR HAS DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING WHY ITS SCHOLARS AND OTHERS MUST PROVIDE SO MUCH DETAILED INFORMATION WHEN APPLYING FOR US VISAS AND INDICATED THAT THIS WAS A SOURCE OF UNHAPPINESS ON THE PART OF GDR VISITORS TO THE US. VINE EXPLAINED THAT OUR VISA POLICY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST GDR CITIZENS AND THAT OTHERS WERE ALSO UNHAPPY WITH OUR VISA REGULATIONS. TURNING TO THE OVERALL STATE OF RELATIONS, VINE EXPLAINED OUR INTEREST IN ARRIVING AT AGREEMENT ON A CONSULAR CONVENTION STRESSING THAT WERE WE TO SETTLE THIS QUESTION, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO MOVE AHEAD IN DEVELOPING RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATIONS WITH THE GDR. IN MAKING THIS POINT, VINE CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THAT OUR DESIRE FOR A SATISFACTORY CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS BASED ON DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS AND THAT OUR POSITION, THEREFORE, WAS NOT BASED ON ANY POLITICAL GOAL VIS-A-VIS THE GDR. HEIDORN REPEATED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A SOLID BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RELATIONS AND AGAIN STRESSED THAT EXPANDED SCHOLARLY-ACADEMIC CONTACTS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO THIS END. HEIDORN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MORE FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES ADDING THAT THIS WOULD FACILITATE HIS MINISTRY'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN FUNDS FOR PROJECTS WITH THE US. VINE RESPONDED THAT BOTH HE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUFFEY WOULD BE CONSIDERING THE POINTS RAISED BY HEIDORN AND CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT HEIDORN'S VISIT WOULD ULTIMATELY LEAD TO FRUITFUL CULTURAL RELATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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